AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 10, 12, 17, 21, 25, 32, 34-40 as follows.

Please add new Claims 41 and 42 as follows.

1. (Currently amended) A test method for testing the operational performance an X-ray facility, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

~~using an image scanner having at least 16 bit greyscale capability to~~ scanning a processed X-ray film bearing a test image having known image features at known locations, to create an electronic version of the image; and

~~using a programmed computer to~~ measureing the optical density of selected of the known features of the electronic image, to calculate predetermined performance indicators, and to deliver a report of operational performance.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the X-ray facility is an X-ray film processor.

3. (Currently amended) A method according to claim ~~1~~41, wherein the image scanner is a low cost commercially available flat bed scanner.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the film is calibrated.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the locations of the test image features are predictable in the scanned image.

6. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 5, wherein a template on ~~the~~a scanning bed is used to ensure the locations of the test image features are predictable in the scanned image.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the test image comprises a sensitometric strip or a phantom image.

8. (Currently amended) A method according to claim ~~1~~42, wherein the programmed computer is remote from the scanner and the electronic image is sent to the computer over the Internet.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 8, wherein the performance indicators include Speed Step (also known as "Mid Density"), Contrast Index (also known as "Density Difference), Base + Fog, Dmax and the Average Gradient.

10. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 9, wherein the report of operational performance includes the data, and the layout, of ~~the~~ report templates ~~of Figs. 2 or 3~~, and indicates ~~:~~ whether the X-ray facility including ~~the~~an X-ray generator, ~~the~~a film processor, and ~~the~~a screen-film combination processor is operating within predetermined tolerances.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein a charge is raised on the basis of a fee for each report.

12. (Currently amended) A test system for testing the operational performance of an X-ray facility, comprising:

an image scanner having at least 16 bit greyscale capability to scan a processed X-ray film bearing a test image having known image features at known locations, to create an electronic version of the image; and

a programmed computer to measure the optical density of selected of the known features of the electronic image, to calculate predetermined performance indicators, and to deliver a report of operational performance.

13. (Original) A system according to claim 12, wherein the X-ray facility is an X-ray film processor.

14. (Original) A system according to claim 12, wherein the image scanner is a low cost commercially available flat bed scanner.

15. (Original) A system according to claim 12, wherein the film is calibrated.

16. (Original) A system according to claim 12, wherein the locations of the test image features are predictable in the scanned image.

17. (Currently amended) A system according to claim 16, wherein a template on ~~the~~a scanning bed is used to ensure the locations of the test image features are predictable in the scanned image.

18. (Original) A system according to claim 12, wherein the test image comprises a sensitometric strip or a phantom image.

19. (Original) A system according to claim 12, wherein the programmed computer is remote from the scanner and the electronic image is sent to the computer over the Internet.

20. (Original) A system according to claim 19, wherein the performance indicators include Speed Step (also known as "Mid Density"), Contrast Index (also known as "Density Difference), Base + Fog, Dmax and the Average Gradient.

21. (Currently amended) A system according to claim 20, wherein the report of operational performance includes the data, and the layout, of ~~the~~ report templates ~~of Figs. 2 or 3~~, and indicates ~~:~~ whether the X-ray facility including ~~the~~an X-ray generator, ~~the~~a film processor, and ~~the~~a screen-film combination processor is operating within predetermined tolerances.

22. (Original) A system according to claim 21, wherein a charge is raised on the basis of a fee for each report.

23. (Original) A flat bed scanner having at least 16 bit greyscale capability and calibrated to scan a processed X-ray film bearing a test image having known image features at known locations, to create an electronic version of the image in which the locations of the test image features are predictable.

24. (Original) A flat bed scanner according to claim 23, wherein the scanner is a low cost commercially available flat bed scanner.

25. (Currently amended) A flat bed scanner according to claim 23, ~~in combination~~wherein a template on the scanning bed is configured to ensure the locations of the test image features are predictable in the scanned image.

26. (Original) A flat bed scanner according to claim 23, wherein the test image comprises a sensitometric strip or a phantom image.

27. (Original) A programmed computer to measure the optical density of selected known features of an electronic version of a test image having known image features at known locations, to calculate predetermined performance indicators, and to deliver a report of operational performance.

28. (Original) A programmed computer according to claim 27, wherein the test image comprises a sensitometric strip or a phantom image.

29. (Original) A programmed computer according to claim 27, wherein the electronic version of the test image is produced by an X-ray film processor.

30. (Original) A programmed computer according to claim 29, wherein the programmed computer is remote from the X-ray film processor and the electronic image is sent to the computer over the Internet.

31. (Original) A programmed computer according to claim 27, wherein the performance indicators include Speed Step (also known as "Mid Density"), Contrast Index (also known as "Density Difference), Base + Fog, Dmax and the Average Gradient.

32. (Currently amended) A programmed computer according to claim 31, wherein the report of operational performance includes the data, and the layout, of ~~the~~ report templates ~~of Figs. 2 or 3~~, and indicates ~~.~~ whether the X-ray facility including ~~the~~an X-ray generator, ~~the~~a film processor, and ~~the~~a screen-film combination processor is operating within predetermined tolerances.

33. (Original) A programmed computer according to claim 32, wherein a charge is raised on the basis of a fee for each report.

34. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium for storing a computer program to measure the optical density of selected known features of an electronic version of a test image having known image features at known locations, to calculate predetermined performance indicators, and to deliver a report of operational performance.

35. (Currently amended) A computer ~~program~~readable medium according to claim 34, wherein the test image comprises a sensitometric strip or a phantom image.

36. (Currently amended) A computer ~~program~~ readable medium according to claim 34, wherein the electronic version of the test image is produced by an X-ray film processor.

37. (Currently amended) A computer ~~program~~readable medium according to claim 34, wherein the performance indicators include Speed Step (also known as "Mid Density"), Contrast Index (also known as "Density Difference), Base + Fog, Dmax and the Average Gradient.

38. (Currently amended) A computer ~~program~~readable medium according to claim 37, wherein the report of operational performance includes the data, and the layout, of ~~the~~ report templates ~~of Figs. 2 or 3~~, and indicates ~~.~~ whether ~~the~~an X-ray facility including ~~the~~an X-ray generator, ~~the~~a film processor, and ~~the~~a screen-film combination processor is operating within predetermined tolerances.

39. (Currently amended) A computer ~~program~~readable medium according to claim 38, wherein a charge is raised on the basis of a fee for each report.

40. (Currently amended) A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave, wherein the signal is transmitted from a scanner containing an electronic version of a test image having known image features at known locations, to a computer where the optical density of selected of the known features of the electronic image is measured, predetermined performance indicators are calculated, and a report of operational performance is prepared.

41. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the scanning is performed using an image scanner having at least 16 bit greyscale capability.

42. (New) The method of Claim 41, wherein the measuring is performed using a programmed computer.

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings replace original Figures 1-3. The sheet, which includes Figure 1, replaces the original sheet including Figure 1. The sheets, which include Figures 2a and 2b, respectively, replace the original sheet including Figure 2. The sheets, which include Figures 3a and 3b, respectively, replace the original sheet including Figure 3. The drawing amendments are merely to provide a cleaner version of the original drawings in reply to the Notice of Missing Parts requiring replacement sheets of the drawings as filed.

Attachment: Replacement sheets